

Methodist Church (Colored)
Cahaba, Alabama

HABS No. ^{ALA}~~18~~-726

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 16

Historic American Buildings Survey
E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer
Ala. Polytechnic Inst., Auburn, Ala.

Project #^{ALA}15-726
COLORED METHODIST CHURCH
Cahaba, Alabama

HISTORICAL DATA:

Built in 1849.

Ownership:

Methodist Episcopal Church, first owner.

Methodist Episcopal Church South acquired this building after the Civil War.

Present Occupants:

A negro congregation.

Cahaba:

This Town of Cahaba, built on the bank of the Alabama River in Dallas County, Alabama, was at one time, 1820 to 1826, the capital city of the State. On account of floods, the capital was moved to Tuscaloosa in 1826.

Cahaba struggled on until the Civil War. At that time all the white inhabitants left and never returned. Now Cahaba is one of Alabama's dead towns. Only a few old houses and this one church remain.

Source of Material:

Peter A. Brannon, Curator of the Department of Archives and History of the State of Alabama, Montgomery, Alabama.

George Petrie, History of Alabama, Rand McNally and Co., Chicago, 1926.

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ARCHITECTURAL MERIT AND DATA:

This church, now used by the colored people of Cahaba, is one of the very few buildings left of the original City of Cahaba, the first site of the State Capital of Alabama. Architecturally, this is interesting but not of the best proportions on the exterior. The interior shows interesting remains of the altar, which must have been the most attractive feature of the whole building.

Source of Material:

E. Walter Burkhardt, District Administrator, HABS,
Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Alabama.

Reviewed, H.C.F., 1936